

DETAILED ACTION

This corrected Notice of Allowance replaces the previous one dated 1/20/12.

Response to Amendment

Claims 1 & 8 are amended and claims 1 & 3-8 are pending in the application as discussed below.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please change the Title to read:

Fuel cell system having switching fuel flow

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2 & 4-8 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record, Wariishi and Ibrahim, do not teach or reasonably suggest the claimed invention of a fuel cell system that has a flow amount controlling unit that controls flow amounts of the fuel gas passing through the first supply passage and the second supply

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passage, wherein fuel gas supplied via the first supply passage and fuel gas supplied via the second supply passage meet each other in counter-directional flow within the anode to form an extreme downstream position of the fuel gas, and wherein the flow amount controlling unit executes a control for supplying fuel gas to the anode in simultaneous flow from both the first supply passage and the second supply passage and varies a ratio between the flow amounts passing through the first supply passage and the second supply passage over time when the exhaust passage is ~ closed to actively control the location of the extreme downstream position of the fuel gas within the anode and controls the flow amount such that an the extreme downstream position of the fuel gas coincides with a position at which the exhaust passage is connected to the second supply passage when the opening and closing unit is open.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KEITH WALKER whose telephone number is (571)272-3458. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. 8am - 5pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Keith Walker/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1726